

GRIMM TALES MADE GAY BY GUY WETMORE CARRYL



With GAY PICTURES
BY ALBERT LEVERING



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LOS ANGELES





*This shows the sword that Blue-Beard used full sore,
After he'd led his young wife to a-door.*

CRIMM TALES MADE GAY

By GUY WETMORE CARRYL
AUTHOR OF

THIS..... AND MANY.... OTHER..... THINGS!



PICTURES BY
ALBERT LEVERING
ARTIST OF

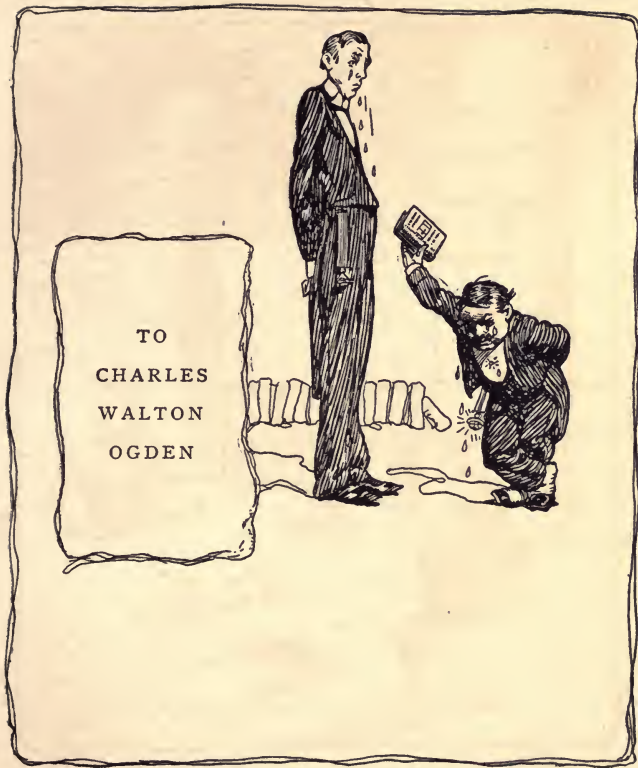
THAT THE OTHER AND THIS



BOSTON & NEWYORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co;



PS
1260
C79





NOTE

I have pleasure in acknowledging the courteous permission of the editors to reprint in this form such of these verses as were originally published in Harper's Magazine, The Century, Life, The Smart Set, The Saturday Evening Post, The Home Magazine, and the London Tatler.

G. W. C.



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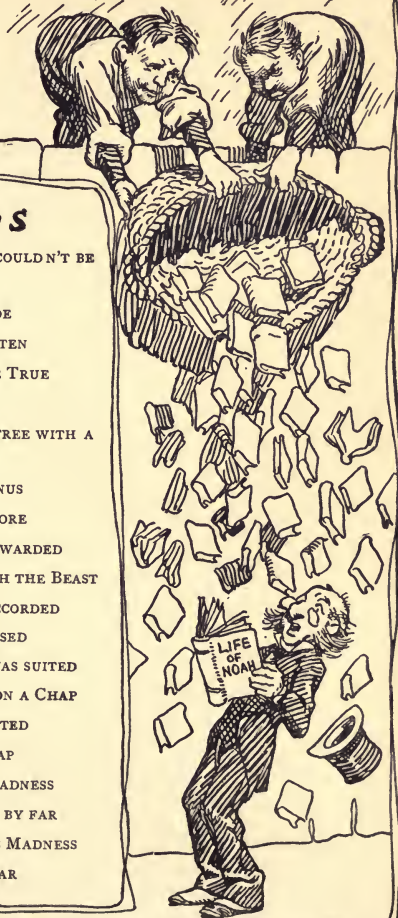
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Grimm Tales Made Gay

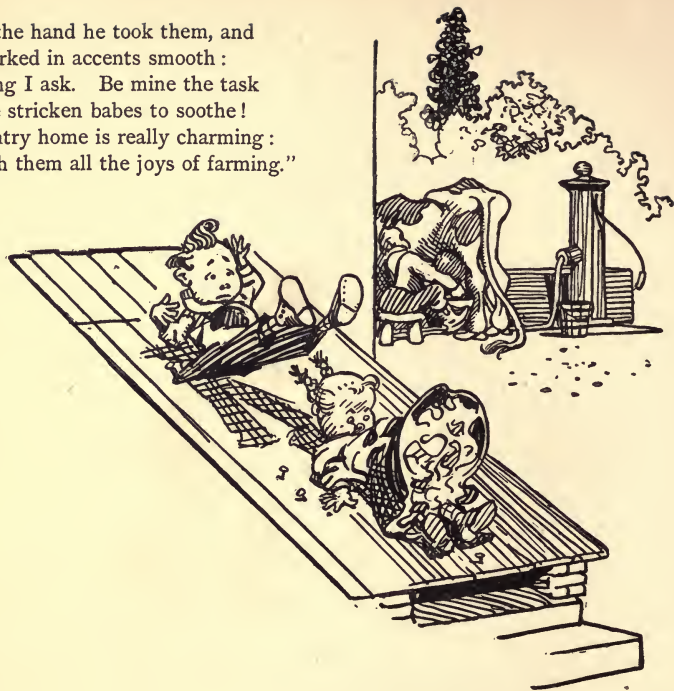
*How the Babes in the Wood
Showed They Couldn't be
Beaten*



A man of kind and noble mind
Was H. Gustavus Hyde.
'T would be amiss to add to this
At present, for he died,
In full possession of his senses,
The day before my tale commences.

One half his gold his four-year-old
Son Paul was known to win,
And Beatrix, whose age was six,
For all the rest came in,
Perceiving which, their Uncle Ben did
A thing that people said was splendid.

For by the hand he took them, and
Remarked in accents smooth :
“One thing I ask. Be mine the task
These stricken babes to soothe !
My country home is really charming :
I'll teach them all the joys of farming.”



One halcyon week they fished his creek,
And watched him do the chores,
In haylofts hid, and, shouting, slid
Down sloping cellar doors :—
Because this life to bliss was equal
The more distressing is the sequel.

Concealing guile beneath a smile,
He took them to a wood,
And, with severe and most austere
Injunctions to be good,
He left them seated on a gateway,
And took his own departure straightway.



Though much afraid, the children stayed
From ten till nearly eight ;
At times they wept, at times they slept,
But never left the gate :
Until the swift suspicion crossed them
That Uncle Benjamin had lost them.



Then, quite unnerved, young Paul observed :

“It’s like a dreadful dream,
And Uncle Ben has fallen ten
Per cent. in my esteem.
Not only did he first usurp us,
But now he’s left us here on purpose !”

* * * * *

For countless years their childish fears
Have made the reader pale,
For countless years the public’s tears
Have started at the tale,
For countless years much detestation
Has been expressed for their relation.

So draw a veil across the dale
Where stood that ghastly gate.
No need to tell. You know full well
What was their touching fate,
And how with leaves each little dead breast
Was covered by a Robin Redbreast !

But when they found them on the ground,
Although their life had ceased,
Quite near to Paul there lay a small
White paper, neatly creased.
“*Because of lack of any merit,*
B. Hyde,” it ran, “*we disinherit !*”

The Moral : If you deeply long
To punish one who’s done you wrong,
Though in your lifetime fail you may,
Where there’s a will, there is a way !

How Fair Cinderella Disposed of Her Shoe

6

The vainest girls in forty states
Were Gwendolyn and Gladys Gates ;
They warbled, slightly off the air,
Romantic German songs,
And each of them upon her hair
Employed the curling tongs,
And each with ardor most intense
Her buxom figure laced,



Until her wilful want of sense
Procured a woeful waist :
For bound to marry titled mates
Were Gwendolyn and Gladys Gates.

Yet, truth to tell, the swains were few
Of Gwendolyn (and Gladys, too).
So morning, afternoon, and night

Upon their sister they
Were wont to vent their selfish spite,
And in the rudest way :

For though her name was Leonore,
That 's neither there nor here,
They called her Cinderella, for

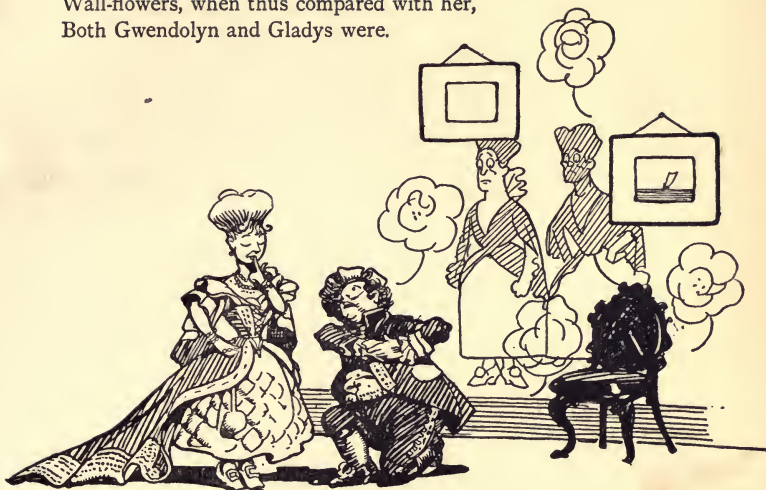
The kitchen was her sphere,
Save when the hair she had to do
Of Gwendolyn (and Gladys, too).



Each night to dances and to *fêtes*
Went Gwendolyn and Gladys Gates,
And Cinderella watched them go
In silks and satins clad :
A prince invited them, and so
They put on all they had !
But one fine night, as all alone
She watched the flames leap higher,
A small and stooping fairy crone
Stept nimbly from the fire.
Said she : "The pride upon me grates
Of Gwendolyn and Gladys Gates."

"I 'll now," she added, with a frown,
"Call Gwendolyn and Gladys down !"
And, ere your fingers you could snap,
There stood before the door
No paltry hired horse and trap,
Oh, no ! — a coach and four !
And Cinderella, fitted out
Regardless of expense,
Made both her sisters look about
Like thirty-seven cents !
The prince, with one look at her gown,
Turned Gwendolyn and Gladys down !

Wall-flowers, when thus compared with her,
Both Gwendolyn and Gladys were.



The prince but gave them glances hard,
No gracious word he said ;
He scratched their names from off his card,
And wrote hers down instead :
And where he would bestow his hand
He showed them in a trice
By handing her the kisses, and
To each of them an ice !
In sudden need of fire and fur
Both Gwendolyn and Gladys were.



At ten o'clock, in discontent,
Both Gwendolyn and Gladys went.
Their sister stayed till after two,
And, with a joy sincere,
The prince obtained her crystal shoe
By way of souvenir.
"Upon the bridal path," he cried,
"We'll reign together! Since
I love you, you must be my bride!"
(He was no slouch, that prince!)
And into sudden languishment
Both Gwendolyn and Gladys went.

The Moral: All the girls on earth
Exaggerate their proper worth.
They think the very shoes they wear
Are worth the average millionaire;
Whereas few pairs in any town
Can be half-sold for half a crown!



How Little Red Riding Hood Came to be Eaten



Most worthy of praise
Were the virtuous ways
Of Little Red Riding Hood's Ma,
And no one was ever
More cautious and clever
Than Little Red Riding Hood's Pa.
They never misled,
For they meant what they said,
And would frequently say what they meant,
And the way she should go
They were careful to show,
And the way that they showed her, she went.



For obedience she was effusively thanked,

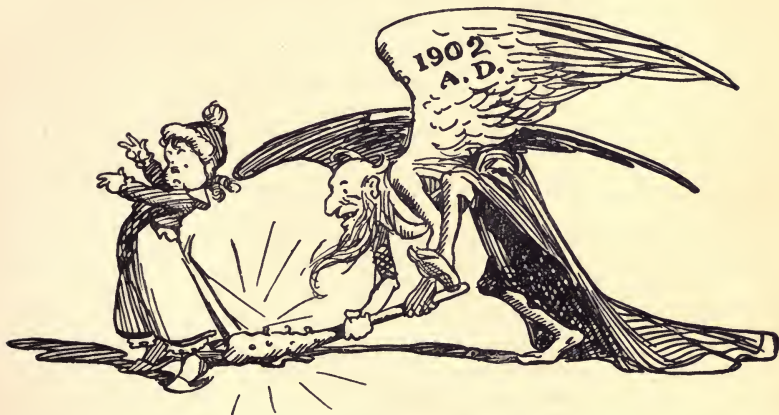


And for anything else she was carefully spanked.

It thus is n't strange
That Red Riding Hood's range
Of virtues so steadily grew,
That soon she won prizes
Of different sizes,
And golden encomiums, too!
As a general rule
She was head of her school,
And at six was so notably smart
That they gave her a cheque
For reciting "The Wreck
of the Hesperus," wholly by heart!
And you all will applaud her the more, I am
sure,
When I add that this money she gave to the
poor.

At eleven this lass
Had a Sunday-school class,
At twelve wrote a volume of verse,
At thirteen was yearning
For glory, and learning
To be a professional nurse.
To a glorious height
The young paragon might
Have grown, if not nipped in the bud,

But the following year
Struck her smiling career
With a dull and a sickening thud !



(I have shed a great tear at the thought of her
pain,
And must copy my manuscript over again !)

Not dreaming of harm,
One day on her arm
 A basket she hung. It was filled
With jellies, and ices,
And gruel, and spices,
 And chicken-legs, carefully grilled,
And a savory stew,
And a novel or two
 She'd persuaded a neighbor to loan,
And a hot-water can,
And a Japanese fan,
 And a bottle of *eau-de-cologne*,
And the rest of the things that your family fill
Your room with, whenever you chance to be ill!

She expected to find
Her decrepit but kind
 Old Grandmother waiting her call,
But the visage that met her
Completely upset her :
 It was n't familiar at all !
With a whitening cheek
She started to speak,
 But her peril she instantly saw : —
Her Grandma had fled,
And she'd tackled instead
 Four merciless Paws and a Maw !
When the neighbors came running, the wolf to
 subdue,
He was licking his chops, (and Red Riding
 Hood's, too !)



*This shows the bad wolf that came out of the wood,
And proved by his actions to be robbin' Hood.*

At this terrible tale
Some readers will pale,
And others with horror grow dumb,
And yet it was better,
I fear, he should get her :
Just think what she might have become !
For an infant so keen
Might in future have been
A woman of awful renown,
Who carried on fights
For her feminine rights



As the Mare of an Arkansas town.
She might have continued the crime of her
'teens,
And come to write verse for the Big Magazines !

The Moral : There 's nothing much glummer
Than children whose talents appall :
One much prefers those who are dumber,
But as for the paragons small,
If a swallow cannot make a summer
It can bring on a summary fall !



How the Fatuous Wish of a Peasant Came True



An excellent peasant,
Of character pleasant,
Once lived in a hut with his wife.
He was cheerful and docile,
But such an old fossil

You would n't meet twice in your life.
His notions were all without reason or rhyme,
Such dullness in any one else were a crime,
But the folly pig-headed
To which he was wedded
Was so deep imbedded,
it touched the sublime !



He frequently stated
Such quite antiquated
And singular doctrines as these :
*" Do good unto others !
All men are your brothers !"*

(Of course he forgot the Chinese !)
He said that all men were made equal and free,
(That 's true if they 're born on *our* side of the
sea !)

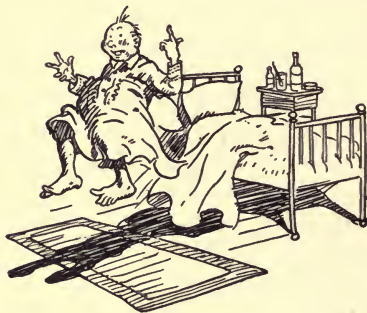
That truth should be spoken,
And pledges unbroken :
(Now where, by that token,
would most of us be ?)



One day, as his pottage
He ate in his cottage,
A fairy stepped up to the door ;
Upon it she hammered,
And meekly she stammered :
 “A morsel of food I implore.”
He gave her sardines, and a biscuit or two,
And she said in reply, when her luncheon was
 through,
 “In return for these dishes
Of bread and of fishes
The first of your wishes
 I’ll make to come true !”

That nincompoop peasant
Accepted the present,
 (As most of us probably would,)
And, thinking her bounty
To turn to account, he
 Said : "*Now* I'll do somebody good !
I won't ask a thing for myself or my wife,
But I 'll make all my neighbors with happiness
 rife.
Whate'er their conditions,
Henceforward, physicians
And indispositions
 they 're rid of for life !"

These words energetic
The fairy's prophetic
Announcement brought instantly true :



With singular quickness
Each victim of sickness
Was made over, better than new,
And people who formerly thought they were
doomed
With almost obstreperous healthiness bloomed,
And each had some platitude,
Teeming with gratitude,
For the new attitude
life had assumed.



Our friend's satisfaction
Concerning his action

Was keen, but exceedingly brief.
The wrathful condition
Of every physician

In town was surpassing belief !
Professional nurses were plunged in despair,
And chemists shook passionate fists in the air :
They called at his dwelling,
With violence swelling,
His greeting repelling
with arrogant stare.

They beat and they battered,
They slammed and they shattered,
And did him such serious harm,
That, after their labors,
His wife told the neighbors
They'd caused her excessive alarm !
They then set to work on his various ills,
And plied him with liniments, powders, and
pills,
And charged him so dearly
That all of them nearly
Made double the yearly
amount of their bills.

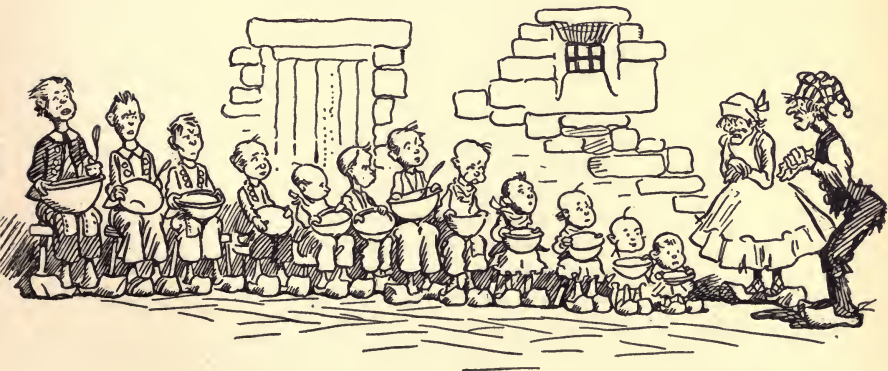


This Moral by the tale is taught : —
The wish is father to the thought.
(We'd oftentimes escape the worst
If but the thinking part came first !)

How Hop O' My Thumb Got Rid of an Onus



A worthy couple, man and wife,
Dragged on a discontented life :
The reason, I should state,
That it was destitute of joys,
Was that they had a dozen boys
To feed and educate,



And nothing such patience demands
As having twelve boys on your hands !

For twenty years they tried their best
To keep those urchins neatly dressed
And teach them to be good,
But so much labor it involved
That, in the end, they both resolved
To lose them in a wood,
Though nothing a parent annoys
Like heartlessly losing his boys!

So when their sons had gone to bed,
Though bitter tears the couple shed,
They laid their little plan.
“*Faut b'en que ça s'fasse. Quand même,*”
The woman said, “*J'en suis tout' blême.*”
“*Ça colle !*” observed the man,
“*Mais ça conte, que ces gosses fichus !*
B'en, quoi ! Faut qu'i's soient perdus !”

(I've quite omitted to explain
That they were natives of Touraine ;
I see I must translate.)
“Of course it must be done, and still,”
The wife remarked, “it makes me ill.”
“You bet !” replied her mate :
“But we've both of us counted the cost,
And the kids simply *have* to be lost !”

But, while they plotted, every word



The youngest of the urchins heard,
And winked the other eye ;
His height was only two feet three.
(I might remark, in passing, he
Was little, but O My !)
He added : " I 'd better keep mum."
(He was foxy, was Hop O' My Thumb !)



They took the boys into the wood,
And lost them, as they said they should,
And came in silence back.
Alas for them! Hop O' My Thumb
At every step had dropped a crumb,
And so retraced the track.
While the parents sat mourning their fate
He led the boys in at the gate!

He placed his hand upon his heart,
And said: "You think you're awful smart,
But I have foiled you thus!"
His parents humbly bent the knee,
And meekly said: "H. O. M. T.,
You're one too much for us!"
And both of them solemnly swore
"We won't never do so no more!"

The Moral is: While I do not
Endeavor to condone the plot,
I still maintain that one
Should have no chance of being foiled,
And having one's arrangements spoiled
By one's ingenious son.
If you turn down your children, with pain,
Take care they don't turn up again!



How the Helpmate of Blue- Beard Made Free with a Door



A maiden from the Bosphorus,
With eyes as bright as phosphorus,
Once wed the wealthy bailiff
Of the caliph
Of Kelat.
Though diligent and zealous, he
Became a slave to jealousy.

(Considering her beauty,



'T was his duty
To be that !)

When business would necessitate
A journey, he would hesitate,
But, fearing to disgust her,
He would trust her
With his keys,
Remarking to her prayerfully :
"I beg you 'll use them carefully.
Don't look what I deposit
In that closet,
If you please."

It may be mentioned, casually,
That blue as lapis lazuli
He dyed his hair, his lashes,
His mustaches,
And his beard.
And, just because he did it, he
Aroused his wife's timidity :
Her terror she dissembled,
But she trembled
When he neared.



*This shows how grim Blue-Beard, when bound on a bat,
Instructed his wife on the key of a flat!*

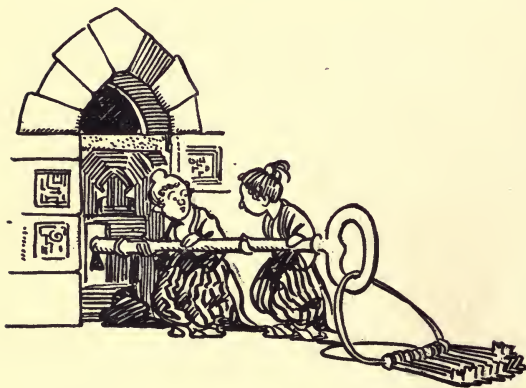
This feeling insalubrious
Soon made her most lugubrious,
And bitterly she missed her
Elder sister
Marie Anne :
She asked if she might write her to
Come down and spend a night or two,
Her husband answered rightly
And politely :
" Yes, you can ! "

Blue-Beard, the Monday following,
His jealous feeling swallowing,
Packed all his clothes together
In a leather-
Bound valise,
And, feigning reprehensibly,
He started out, ostensibly
By traveling to learn a
Bit of Smyrna
And of Greece.

His wife made but a cursory
Inspection of the nursery ;
The kitchen and the airy
Little dairy
Were a bore,
As well as big or scanty rooms,
And billiard, bath, and ante-rooms,
But not that interdicted
And restricted
Little door !

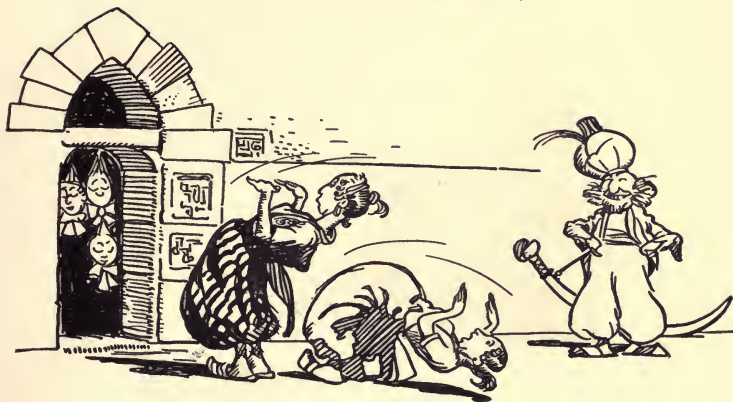


For, all her curiosity
Awakened by the closet he
So carefully had hidden,
And forbidden
Her to see,



This damsel disobedient
Did something inexpedient,
And in the keyhole tiny
Turned the shiny
Little key :

Then started back impulsively,
And shrieked aloud convulsively —
Three heads of girls he'd wedded
And beheaded
Met her eye!



And turning round, much terrified,
Her darkest fears were verified,
For Blue-Beard stood behind her,
Come to find her
On the sly!

Perceiving she was fated to
Be soon decapitated, too,
 She telegraphed her brothers
 And some others
 What she feared.
And Sister Anne looked out for them,
In readiness to shout for them
 Whenever in the distance
 With assistance
 They appeared.

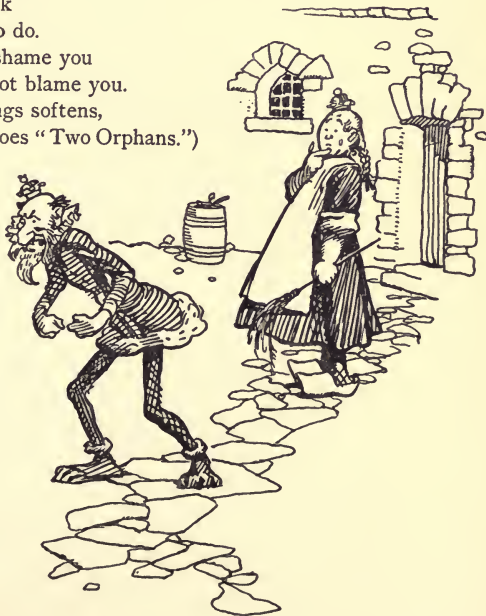
But only from her battlement
She saw some dust that cattle meant.
 The ordinary story
 Is n't gory,
 But a jest.
But here 's the truth unqualified.
The husband *was n't* mollified
 Her head is in his bloody
 Little study
 With the rest !

The Moral : Wives, we must allow,
Who to their husbands will not bow,
A stern and dreadful lesson learn
When, as you 've read, they 're cut in turn.

How Rumpelstilz Held Out in Vain for a Bonus



In Germany there lived an earl
Who had a charming niece :
And never gave the timid girl
A single moment's peace !
Whatever low and menial task
His fancy flitted through,
He did not hesitate to ask
That shrinking child to do.
(I see with truly honest shame you
Are blushing, and I do not blame you.
A tale like this the feelings softens,
And brings the tears, as does "Two Orphans.")



She had to wash the windows, and
She had to scrub the floors,
She had to lend a willing hand
To fifty other chores :
She gave the dog his exercise,
She read the earl the news,
She ironed all his evening ties,
And polished all his shoes,
She cleaned the tins that filled the dairy,
She cut the claws of the canary,
And then, at night, with manner winsome,
When coal was wanted, carried in some !

But though these tasks were quite enough,
He thought them all too few,
And so her uncle, rude and rough,
Invented something new.
He took her to a little room,
Her willingness to tax,
And pointed out a broken loom
And half a ton of flax,
Observing : " Spin six pairs of trousers ! "
His haughty manner seemed to rouse hers.
She met his scornful glances proudly —



And for an answer whistled loudly !



But when the earl went down the stair
She yielded to her fears.
Gave way at last to grim despair,
And melted into tears :
When suddenly, from out the wall,
As if he felt at home,
There pounced a singularly small
And much distorted gnome.
He smiled a smile extremely vapid,
And set to work in fashion rapid ;
No time for resting he deducted,
And soon the trousers were constructed.

The girl observed : " How very nice
To help me out this way ! "
The gnome replied : " A certain price
Of course you 'll have to pay.
I 'll call to-morrow afternoon,
My due reward to claim,
And then you 'll sing another tune
Unless you guess my name ! "
He indicated with a gesture
The pile of newly fashioned vesture :
His eyes on hers a moment centered,
And then he went, as he had entered.

As by this tale you have been grieved
 And heartily distressed,
 Kind sir, you will be much relieved
 To know his name she guessed :



But if I do not tell the same,
 Pray count it not a crime : —
 I've tried my best, and for that name
 I can't find any rhyme !
 Yet spare me from remarks injurious :
 I will not leave you foiled and furious.
 If something must proclaim the answer,
 And I cannot, the title can, sir !

The Moral is : All said and done,
There 's nothing new beneath the sun,
And many times before, a title
Was incapacity's requital !

How Jack Made the Giants Uncommonly Sore



Of all the ill-fated
Boys ever created

Young Jack was the wretchedest lad :
An emphatic, erratic,
Dogmatic fanatic

Was foisted upon him as dad !
From the time he could walk,
And before he could talk,

His wearisome training began,
On a highly barbarian,
Disciplinarian,
Nearly Tartarean
Plan !



He taught him some Raleigh,
And some of Macaulay,
Till all of "Horatius" he knew,
And the drastic, sarcastic,
Fantastic, scholastic
Philippics of "Junius," too.
He made him learn lots
Of the poems of Watts,
And frequently said he ignored,
On principle, any son's
Title to benisons
Till he'd learned Tennyson's
"Maud."

"For these are the giants
Of thought and of science,"
He said in his positive way :
"So weigh them, obey them,
Display them, and lay them
To heart in your infancy's day !"
Jack made no reply,
But he said on the sly
An eloquent word, that had come
From a quite indefensible,
Most reprehensible,
But indispensable
Chum.

By the time he was twenty
Jack had such a plenty
Of books and paternal advice,
Though seedy and needy,
Indeed he was greedy
For vengeance, whatever the price !
In the editor's seat
Of a critical sheet
He found the revenge that he sought ;
And, with sterling appliance of
Mind, wrote defiance of
All of the giants of
Thought.

He 'd thunder and grumble
At high and at humble
Until he became, in a while,
Mordacious, pugnacious,
Rapacious. Good gracious !
They called him the Yankee Carlyle !
But he never took rest
On his quarrelsome quest
Of the giants, both mighty and small.
He slated, distorted them,
Hanged them and quartered them,
Till he had slaughtered them
All.

And this is *The Moral* that lies in the verse :
If you have a go farther, you're apt to fare
worse.

(When you turn it around it is different rather : —
You're not apt to go worse if you have a fair
father !)



How Rudeness and Kindness Were Justly Rewarded



Once on a time, long years ago
 (Just when I quite forget),
Two maidens lived beside the Po,
 One blonde and one brunette.
The blonde one's character was mild,
From morning until night she smiled,
Whereas the one whose hair was brown
Did little else than pine and frown.
 (*I think one ought to draw the line*
 At girls who always frown and pine !)

The blonde one learned to play the harp,
 Like all accomplished dames,
And trained her voice to take *C* sharp
 As well as Emma Eames ;
Made baskets out of scented grass,
And paper-weights of hammered brass,
And lots of other odds and ends
For gentleman and lady friends.
 (*I think it takes a deal of sense*
 To manufacture gifts for gents !)

The dark one wore an air of gloom,
Proclaimed the world a bore,
And took her breakfast in her room
Three mornings out of four.
With crankiness she seemed imbued,
And everything she said was rude :
She sniffed, and sneered, and, what is more,
When very much provoked, she swore !
 (*I think that I could never care*
 For any girl who 'd learned to swear !)

One day the blonde was striding past
A forest, all alone,
When all at once her eyes she cast
Upon a wrinkled crone,
Who tottered near with shaking knees,
And said : "A penny, if you please !"
And you will learn with some surprise
This was a fairy in disguise !
 (*I think it must be hard to know*
 A fairy who 's incognito !)

The maiden filled her trembling palms
With coinage of the realm.
The fairy said : " Take back your alms !
My heart they overwhelm.
Henceforth at every word shall slip
A pearl or ruby from your lip ! "
And, when the girl got home that night, —

She found the fairy's words were right !



(I think there are not many girls
Whose words are worth their weight in
pearls !)

It happened that the cross brunette,
Ten minutes later, came
Along the self-same road, and met
That bent and wrinkled dame,
Who asked her humbly for a sou.
The girl replied : " Get out with you ! "
The fairy cried : " Each word you drop,
A toad from out your mouth shall hop ! "
(I think that nothing incommodes
One's speech like uninvited toads !)

And so it was, the cheerful blonde
Lived on in joy and bliss,
And grew pecunious, beyond
The dreams of avarice !
And to a nice young man was wed,
And I have often heard it said
No other man who ever walked
Most loved his wife when most she talked !
(I think this very fact, forsooth,
Goes far to prove I tell the truth !)

The cross brunette the fairy's joke
By hook or crook survived,
But still at every word she spoke
An ugly toad arrived,
Until at last she had to come
To feigning she was wholly dumb,
Whereat the suitors swarmed around,
And soon a wealthy mate she found.
(*I think nobody ever knew*
The happier husband of the two !)

The Moral of the tale is : Bah !
Nous avons changé tout cela.
No clear idea I hope to strike
Of what *your* nicest girl is like,
But she whose best young man *I* am
Is not an oyster, nor a clam !

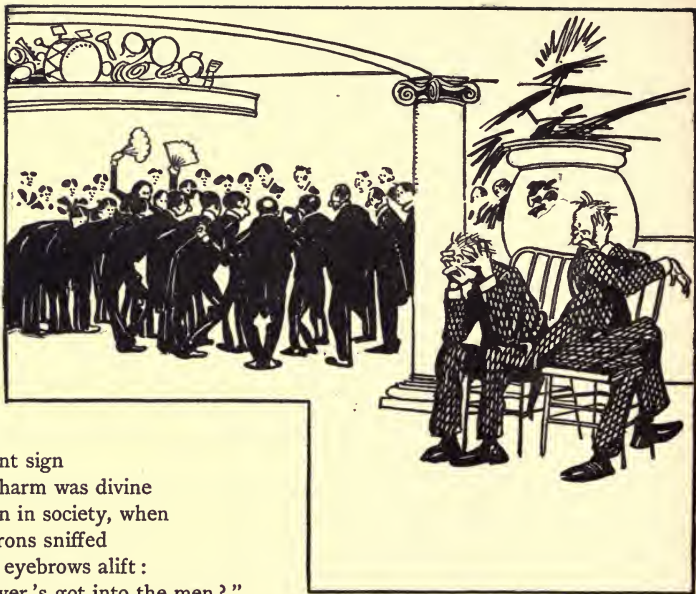


*This shows why each suitor, who rode up to spark,
Would mark the toad maybe, but ne'er toed the mark.*

*How Beauty Contrived to Get
Square with the Beast*



Miss Guinevere Platt
Was so beautiful that
 She could n't remember the day
When one of her swains
Had n't taken the pains
 To send her a mammoth bouquet.
And the postman had found,
On the whole of his round,
 That no one received such a lot
Of bulky epistles
As, waiting his whistles,
 The beautiful Guinevere got !

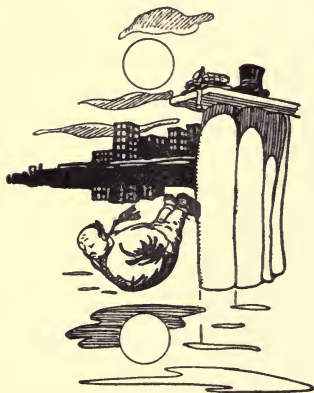


A significant sign
 That her charm was divine
 Was seen in society, when
 The chaperons sniffed
 With their eyebrows aloft :
 "Whatever 's got into the men ?"
 There was always a man
 Who was holding her fan,
 And twenty that danced in details,
 And a couple of mourners,
 Who brooded in corners,
 And gnawed their mustaches and nails.

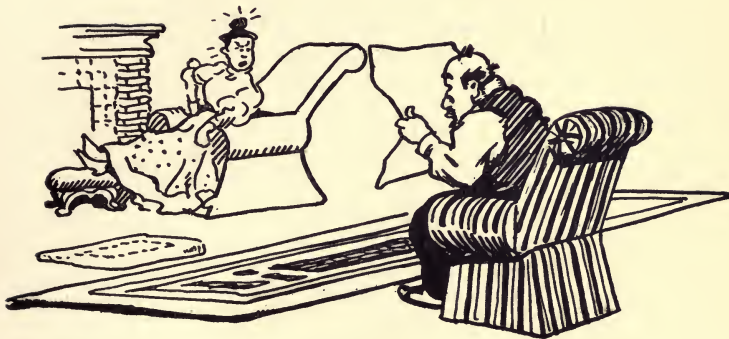
John Jeremy Platt
Would n't stay in the flat,
For his beautiful daughter he missed :
When he 'd taken his tub,
He would hie to his club,
And dally with poker or whist.
At the end of a year
It was perfectly clear
That he 'd never computed the cost,
For he had n't a penny
To settle the many
Ten thousands of dollars he 'd lost !

F. Ferdinand Fife
Was a student of life :
He was coarse, and excessively fat,
With a beard like a goat's,
But he held all the notes
Of ruined John Jeremy Platt !
With an adamant smile
That was brimming with guile,
He said : "I am took with the face
Of your beautiful daughter,
And wed me she ought ter,
To save you from utter disgrace !"

Miss Guinevere Platt
Did n't hesitate at
Her duty's imperative call.
When they looked at the bride
All the chaperons cried :
" She is n't so bad, after all ! "
Of the desolate men
There were something like ten
Who took up political lives,
And the flower of the flock
Went and fell off a dock,
And the rest married hideous wives !



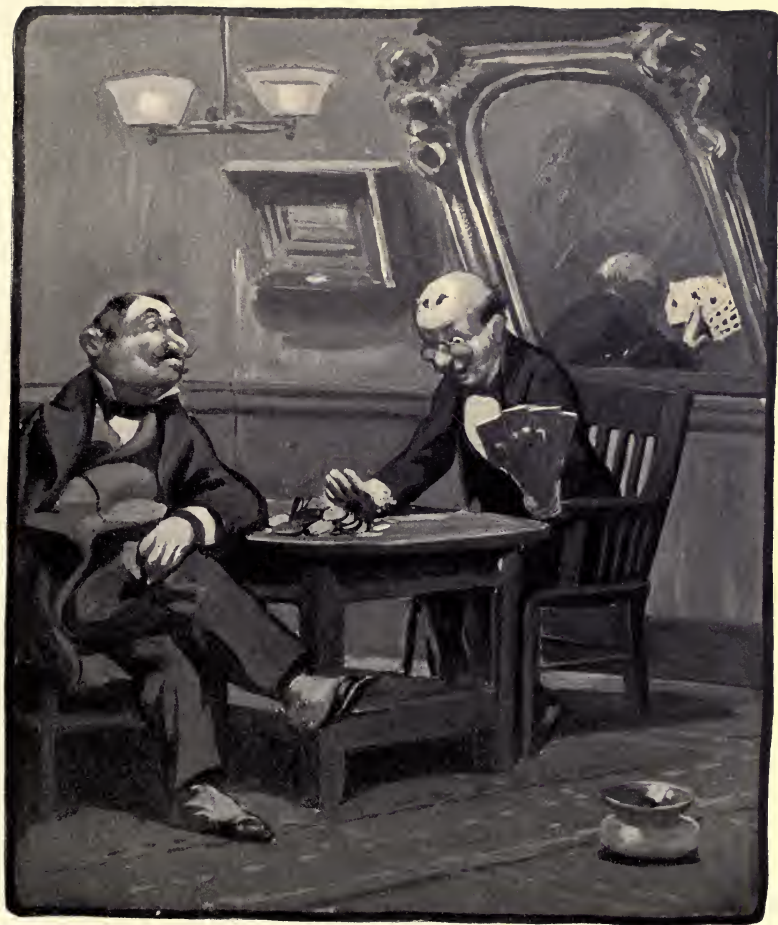
But the beautiful wife
Of F. Ferdinand Fife
Was the wildest that ever was known :



She 'd grumble and glare,
Till the man did n't dare
To say that his soul was his own.
She sneered at his ills,
And quadrupled his bills,
And spent nearly twice what he earned ;
Her husband deserted,
And frivoled, and flirted,
Till Ferdinand's reason was turned.

He repented too late,
And his terrible fate
 Upon him so heavily sat,
That he swore at the day
When he sat down to play
 At cards with John Jeremy Platt.
He was dead in a year,
And the fair Guinevere
 In society sparkled again,
While the chaperons fluttered
Their fans, as they muttered :
 " She 's getting exceedingly plain ! "

The Moral : Predicaments often are found
That beautiful duty is apt to get round :
But greedy extortioners better beware
For dutiful beauty is apt to get square !



*This shows how at poker one loses his self
When the other's a joker and knave in himself.*



How a Fair One no Hope to His Highness Accorded



She has slid down the channels
Of history's annals

Disguised as the child of a king,
But that is a glib
And iniquitous fib,

For she never was any such thing :
They called her the Fair One

with Golden Locks,
And it 's true she had lovers
who swarmed in flocks,

But the rest is ironic ;
Her business chronic
Was selling hair-tonic
By bottle and box !

From the dawn till the gloaming
She used to sit combing

Her hair in a languorous way.
And her suitors would stop
To look into the shop,

And stand there the rest of the day.
She filled them with mute, but
with deep despair,

For she never glanced up, with
a smile, to where

They stood about, crushing
Each other, and blushing :
She simply kept brushing
Her beautiful hair.

But a prince who was passing,
Engaged in amassing
Some facts on American life,
Was suddenly struck
By the fact that his luck
Might give him that girl for a wife !
His rashness he did n't
attempt to excuse,
He entered the shop and
he stated his views.
Remarking,



“ My jewel,
I 'm confident you will
Not wish to be cruel
Enough to refuse.

"Most winsome of creatures,"
He told her, "your features
Have led me to candidly say
That no other beside
Would I have for a bride :
We'll be married a week from to-day !
I belong to a long and
a titled line,
And the least of your wishes
I won't decline ;
Next month I will usher
My wife into Russia : —
Sweet comber and brusher,
Consider you're mine !"

She looked at him squarely,
Considered him fairly,
Her glance was as keen as a knife,
Then she turned up her nose,
And, with icy repose,
She answered : " Well, not on your life !
You're not on the paper
the only blot !
Do you think I come twelve
in a parcel — what ?
Me pose as your dearie ?
Oh, go and chase Peary !
You're making me weary.
Now git !"

(He got !)



*This shows how, with never a shadow of doubt,
When you go in for love you are apt to come out.*

The crowd that had waited
Outside was elated
 So much by the prince's mischance,
That they greeted with jeers
And ironical cheers,
 The end of his little romance.
They said : "Did it hurt
 when the ground you hit ?"
They searched for some mark
 where the prince had lit,
And as he looked colder,
They only grew bolder,
And tapped on his shoulder
 With : " Tag ! You 're It !"

The lengthy discussion
That sensitive Russian
 Compiled on the U. S. A.
Was read by the maid,
As she carelessly played
 With her beautiful hair one day.
" The talk you hear in that primitive land,"
He wrote, " nobody
 can understand."
" Somebody who guffed him,"
She said, " has stuffed him,
And easily bluffed him
 To beat the band !"

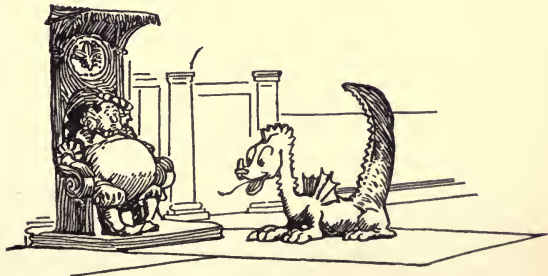
The Moral: The people across the brine
Are exceedingly strong on Auld Lang Syne,
But they're lost in the push when they strike
a gang
That is strong on American new line slang!



How Thomas a Maid from a Dragon Released



Though Philip the Second
Of France was reckoned
No coward, his breath came short
When they told him a dragon
As big as a wagon
Was waiting below in the court !
A dragon so long, and so
wide, and so fat,
That he could n't get in at
the door to chat :
The king could n't leave him
Outside and grieve him,
He had to receive him
Upon the mat,



The dragon bowed nicely,
And very concisely
He stated the reason he'd called :
He made the disclosure
With frigid composure.

King Philip was simply appalled !
He demanded for eating,
 a fortnight apart,
The monarch's ten daughters,
 all dear to his heart.
"And now you 'll produce," he
Concluded, "the juicy
And succulent Lucie
 By way of start !"

King Philip was pliant,
And far from defiant
— "And servile," no doubt you retort ! —
But if *you* struck a snag on
A bottle-green dragon,
Who filled up two-thirds of your court,
And curled up his tail on
 your new tin roof,
And made your piazza
 groan under his hoof,
Would you threaten and thunder,
Or just knuckle under
Completely, I wonder,
 If put to proof ?



By way of a truce, he
Brought out little Lucie
And watched her conducted away,
But all of the others
Were out with their brothers !
Thus gaining a little delay,
He promised through heralds
sent west and east,
His crown, and his kingdom,
and last, not least,
His daughter so sightly
To any one knightly
Who'd come and politely
Wipe out that beast !



*This shows how a servant may laugh at the Fates,
Since everything comes to the fellow who waits.*

The king was delighted
At first when he sighted
The victor, but then in dismay
Regretted his promise.
The stripling was Thomas,
His Majesty's *valet-de-pied* !
He asked him at once :
" Will you compromise ? "
But Thomas looked straight
in his master 's eyes,
And answered severely :
" I see your game clearly,
And scorn it sincerely.
Hand out the prize ! "

Not long did he linger
Before on the finger
Of Lucie he fitted a ring :
A month or two later
They made him dictator,
In place of the elderly king :
He was lauded by pulpit,
and boomed by press,
And no one had ever
a chance to guess,
Beholding this hero
Who ruled like a Nero,
His valor was zero,
or something less.

The Moral : And still from Nice to Calais
Discretion 's the better part of —

— *valets !*

How a Beauty was Waked and Her Suitor was Suited



Albeit wholly penniless,
Prince Charming was n't any less
 Conceited than a Croesus
 or a modern millionaire :
Though often in necessity,
No one would ever guess it. He
 Was candidly insolvent,
 and he frankly did n't care !
Of the many debts he made
Not a one was ever paid,
 But no one ever pressed him
 to refund the borrowed gold :
While he recklessly kept spending,
People gladly kept on lending,
 For the fact they knew a title
 Was requital
 Twenty-fold !
(He lived in sixteen sixty-three,
 This smooth unblushing article,
Since when, as far as I can see,
 Men have n't changed a particle !)

In Charming's principality
There was a wild locality,
 Composed of sombre forest,
 and of steep and frowning crags,
Of pheasant and of rabbit, too ;
And here it was his habit to
 Go hunting with his courtiers
 in the keen pursuit of stags.
But the charger that he rode
So mercurially strode
 That the prince on one occasion
 left the others in the lurch,
And the falling darkness found him,
With no vassals left around him,
 Near a building like an abbey,
 Or a shabby
 Ruined church.
His Highness said : "I'll ring the bell
 And stay till morning in it !" (He
Took Hobson's choice, for no hotel
 There was in the vicinity.)

His ringing was so vehement
That any one could see he meant
 To suffer no refusal, but,
 in spite of all the din,
There was no answer audible,
And so, with courage laudable,
 His Royal Highness turned the knob,
 and stoutly entered in.
Then he strode across the court,
But he suddenly stopped short
 When he passed within the castle
 by a massive oaken door :
There were courtiers without number,
But they all were plunged in slumber,
 The prince's ear delighting
 By uniting
 In a snore.
The prince remarked : "This must be Phil-
 adelphia, Pennsylvania !"
(And so was born the jest that 's still
 The comic journal's mania !)

With torpor reprehensible,
Numb, comatose, insensible,
 The flunkeys and the chamberlains
 all slumbered like the dead,
And snored so loud and mournfully,
That Charming passed them scornfully
 And came to where a princess
 lay asleep upon a bed.
She was so extremely fair
That His Highness did n't care
 For the risk, and so he kissed her
 ere a single word he spoke : —
In a jiffy maids and pages,
Ushers, lackeys, squires, and sages,
 As fresh as if they 'd been at least
 A week awake,



*This shows how the prince won the princess's heart,
And the end of her sleeping was simply a start.*



Awoke,
And hastened, bustled, dashed and ran
Up stairways and through galleries :
In brief, they one and all began
Again to earn their salaries !



Aroused from her paralysis,
As if in deep analysis
 Of him who had awakened her,
 the princess met his eye :
Her glance at first was critical,
And sternly analytical.
 And then she dropped her lashes
 and she gave a little sigh.
As he watched her, wholly dumb,
She observed : " You doubtless come
 For one of two good reasons,
 and I 'm going to ask you which.
Do you mean my house to harry,
Or do you propose to marry ? "
 He answered : " I may rue it,
 But I 'll do it,
 If you 're rich ! "
The princess murmured with a smile :
 " I 've millions, at the least, to come ! "
The prince cried : " Please excuse me, while
 I go and get the priest to come ! "

The Moral : When affairs go ill
The sleeping partner foots the bill.

How Jack Found that Beans May go Back on a Chap



Without the slightest basis
For hypochondriasis
 A widow had forebodings
 which a cloud around her flung,
And with expression cynical
For half the day a clinical
 Thermometer she held
 beneath her tongue.

Whene'er she read the papers
She suffered from the vapors,
 At every tale of malady
 or accident she'd groan ;
In every new and smart disease,
From housemaid's knee to heart disease,
 She recognized the symptoms
 as her own !

She had a yearning chronic
To try each novel tonic,
 Elixir, panacea, lotion,
 opiate, and balm ;
And from a homœopathist
Would change to an hydropathist,
 And back again,
 with stupefying calm !

Now all of this bemoaning
And this grumbling and this groaning
The mind of Jack, her son and heir,
unconscionably bored.
His heart completely hardening,
He gave his time to gardening,
For raising beans was
something he adored.



Each hour in accents morbid
This limp maternal bore/bid
Her callous son affectionate
and lachrymose good-bys.
She never granted Jack a day
Without some long "Alackaday!"
Accompanied by
rolling of the eyes.

But Jack, no panic showing,
Just watched his beanstalk growing,
And twined with tender fingers
the tendrils up the pole.
At all her words funereal
He smiled a smile ethereal, *(overly & hesitantly)*
Or sighed an absent-minded
"Bless my soul!"

That hollow-hearted creature
Would never change a feature :
 No tear bedimmed his eye, however
 touching was her talk.
She never fussed or flurried him,
The only thing that worried him
 Was when no bean-pods
 grew upon the stalk !

But then he wobbled loosely
His head, and wept profusely,
 And, taking out his handkerchief
 to mop away his tears,
Exclaimed : " It has n't got any ! "
He found this blow to botany
 Was sadder than were all
 his mother's fears.

The Moral is that gardeners pine
Whene'er no pods adorn the vine.
Of all sad words experience gleans
The saddest are : "It *might* have beans."
(I did not make this up myself :
'T was in a book upon my shelf.
It 's witty, but I don't deny
It 's rather Whittier than I !)



How a Cat Was Annoyed and a Poet Was Booted



A poet had a cat.
There is nothing odd in that —
 (I *might* make a little pun about the *Mews*!)
But what is really more
Remarkable, she wore
 A pair of pointed patent-leather shoes.
 And I doubt me greatly whether
 E'er you heard the like of that :
 Pointed shoes of patent-leather
 On a cat !



His time he used to pass
Writing sonnets, on the grass —
 (I *might* say something good on *pen* and
 sward !)
While the cat sat near at hand,
Trying hard to understand
 The poems he occasionally roared.
 (I myself possess a feline,
 But when poetry I roar
 He is sure to make a bee-line
 For the door.)

The poet, cent by cent,
All his patrimony spent —
 (I *might* tell how he went from *werse* to
 werse !)
Till the cat was sure she could,
By advising, do him good.
 So addressed him in a manner that was
 terse :
 “ We are bound toward the scuppers,
 And the time has come to act,
 Or we 'll both be on our uppers
 For a fact ! ”

On her boot she fixed her eye,
But the boot made no reply —
 (I *might* say : “ Could n't speak to save its
 sole ! ”)
And the foolish bard, instead
Of responding, only read
 A verse that was n't bad upon the whole :
 And it pleased the cat so greatly,
 Though she knew not what it meant,
 That I 'll quote approximately
 How it went : —

“ If I should live to be
 The last leaf upon the tree ” —
 (I *might* put in : “ I think I 'd just as *leaf* ! ”)
“ Let them smile, as I do now,
 At the old forsaken bough ” —
 Well, he 'd plagiarized it bodily, in brief !
 But that cat of simple breeding
 Could n't read the lines between,
 So she took it to a leading
 Magazine.



She was jarred and very sore
When they showed her to the door.
(I *might* hit off the *door* that was a *jar* !)
To the spot she swift returned
Where the poet sighed and yearned,
And she told him that he'd gone a little
far.
" Your performance with this rhyme has
Made me absolutely sick,"
She remarked. " I think the time has
Come to kick ! "



I could fill up half the page
With descriptions of her rage —
 (I *might* say that she went a bit *too fur* !)
When he smiled and murmured : “ Shoo ! ”
“ There is one thing I can do ! ”
She answered with a wrathful kind of purr.
 “ You may shoo me, and it suit you,
 But I feel my conscience bid
 Me, as tit for tat, to boot you ! ”
 (Which she did.)

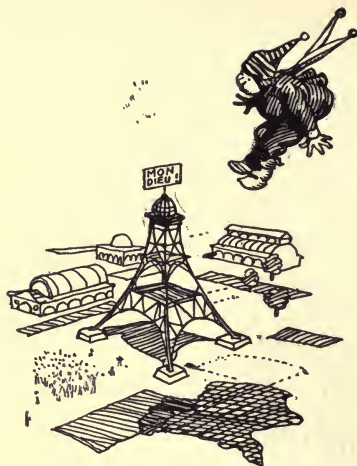


The Moral of the plot
(Though I say it, as should not !)
Is : An editor is difficult to suit.
But again there 're other times
When the man who fashions rhymes
Is a rascal, and a bully one to boot !

*How Much Fortunatus Could
Do with a Cap*



Fortunatus, a fisherman Dane,
Set out on a sudden for Spain,
Because, runs the story,
He 'd met with a hoary
Mysterious sorcerer chap,
Who, trouble to save him,
Most thoughtfully gave him
A magical traveling cap.
I barely believe that the story is true,
But here 's what that cap was reported to do.



Suppose you were sitting at home,
And you wished to see Paris or Rome,
You'd pick up that bonnet,
You'd carefully don it,
The name of the city you'd call,
And the very next minute
By Jove, you were in it,
Without having started at all !
One moment you sauntered on upper Broad-
way,
And the next on the Corso or rue de la Paix !



*This shows Fortunatus, a restlessness feeling,
Forsaking his fishing, and leaving his ceiling.*

Why, it beat every journey of Cook's,
Knocked spots out of Baedeker's books !
He stepped from his doorway
Direct into Norway,
He hopped in a trice to Ceylon,
He saw Madagascar,
Went round by Alaska,
And called on a girl in Luzon :
If they said she'd be down in a moment or
two,
He took, while he waited, a peek at Peru !

He could wake up at eight in Siam,
Take his tub, if he wanted, in Guam.
Eat breakfast in Kansas,
And lunch in Matanzas,
Go out for a walk in Brazil,
Take tea in Madeira,

Dine on the Riviera,



And smoke his cigar in Seville,
Go out to the theatre in Vladivostok,
And retire in New York at eleven o'clock !

Every tongue he could readily speak :
French, German, Italian, Greek,
Norwegian, Bulgarian,
Turkish, Bavarian,
Japanese, Hindustanee,
Russian and Mexican !
He was a lexicon,

Such as you seldom will see.
His knowledge linguistic gave Ollendorff fits,
And brought a hot flush to the face of Berlitz !

He would bow in an intimate way
To Menelik and to Loubet,
He was frequently beckoned,
By William the Second,
A word of advice to receive,
He talked with bravado
About the Mikado,

King Oscar, Oom Paul, the Khedive,
King Victor Emmanuel Second, the Shah,
King Edward the Seventh, Kwang Su, and the
Czar !



But what did he get from it all?
 His wife used to wait in the hall!
 When this wandering mortal
 Set foot on the portal,
 She always appeared on the scene,
 And, far from ideally,
 Remarked: "Well, I *really*
 Would like to know where you have
 been!"

Now what is the good of a wandering life,
 If you have to tell all that you do to your
 wife?



She'd indulge in a copious cry,
 She'd remark she'd undoubtedly die,
 Or, like many another,
 Go back to her mother,
 And what would the world think of *that*?
 She only grew pleasant,
 When offered a present
 Of gloves or a gown or a hat:
 And more than his talisman saved him in fare
 Fortunatus expended in putting things square!

And *The Moral* is easily said:
 Like our hero, you're certain to find,
 When such a cap goes on a head,
 Retribution will follow behind!

How a Princess Was Wooed from Habitual Sadness



In days of old the King of Saxe
Had singular opinions,
For with a weighty battle-axe
He brutalized his minions,
And, when he 'd nothing to employ
His mind, he chose a village,
And with an air of savage joy
Delivered it to pillage.

But what aroused within his breast
A rage well-nigh primeval
Was, most of all, his daughter, dressed
In fashion mediæval :
The gowns that pleased this maiden's eye
Were simple as Utopia,
And for a hat she had a high
Inverted cornucopia.

In all her life she 'd never smiled,
Her sadness was abysmal :
The boisterous monarch found his child
Unutterably dismal.
He therefore said the prince who made
Her laughter from its shell come,
Besides in ducats being paid,
Might wed the girl, and welcome !

I ought to say, ere I forget,
She was uncommon comely —
(Who ever read a Grimm tale yet,
In which the girl was homely ?)
And so the King's announcement drew
Nine princes in a column.
But all in vain. The princess grew,
If anything, more solemn.



One read her "Innocents Abroad,"
 The next wore clothes eccentric,
 The third one swallowed half his sword,
 As in the circus-tent trick.
 Thus eight of them into her cool
 Reserve but deeper shoved her:
 There was but one authentic fool —
 The prince who really loved her !



He'd alternate between the height
Of hope and deep abasement,
He caught distressing colds at night,
By watching 'neath her casement :
He did what I have done, I know,
And you, I do not doubt it, —
Instead of bottling up his woe,
He bored his friends about it !

In brooding on the ways of Fate
Long hours he daily wasted,
His food remained upon his plate,
'T was scarcely touched or tasted :
He said the bitter things of love,
All lovers, save a few, say,
And learned by heart the verses of
Swinburne, and A. de Musset !



This attitude his wished-for bride
To silent laughter goaded,
Until he talked of suicide,
And then the girl exploded !
" You make me laugh, and so," she said,
" I 'll marry you next season."
(Not half the people who are wed
Have half so good a reason !)

The Moral: The deliberate clown
Can never beat love's barriers down :
'T is better to be like the owl,
Comic because so grave a fowl.
From him we well may take our cue —
By him be taught, to wit, to woo !

How a Girl was too Reckless of Grammar by Far



Matilda Maud Mackenzie
 frankly had n't any chin,
Her hands were rough, her feet she
 turned invariably in ;
Her general form was German,
 By which I mean that you
Her waist could not determine
 To within a foot or two :
And not only did she stammer,
But she used the kind of grammar
 That is called, for sake of euphony, askew.

From what I say about her,
 don't imagine I desire
A prejudice against this
 worthy creature to inspire.
She was willing, she was active,
 She was sober, she was kind,
But she *never* looked attractive
 And she *had n't* any mind !
I knew her more than slightly,
And I treated her politely
 When I met her, but of course I was n't
 blind !

Matilda Maud Mackenzie
 had a habit that was droll,
She spent her morning seated
 on a rock or on a knoll,

And threw with much composure
A smallish rubber ball
At an inoffensive osier
By a little waterfall ;

But Matilda's way of throwing
Was like other people's mowing,
And she never hit the willow-tree at all !



*This serves in the easiest way to explain
What is meant by taking an aim in vain.*

One day as Miss Mackenzie
 with uncommon ardor tried
 To hit the mark, the missile
 flew exceptionally wide,
 And, before her eyes astounded,
 On a fallen maple's trunk
 Ricochettet, and rebounded
 In the rivulet, and sunk !
 Matilda, greatly frightened,
 In her grammar unenlightened,
 Remarket : " Well now I ast yer ! Who 'd
 'er thunk ? "



But what a marvel followed !
 From the pool at once there rose
 A frog, the sphere of rubber
 balanced deftly on his nose.
 He beheld her fright and frenzy,
 And, her panic to dispel,
 On his knee by Miss Mackenzie
 He obsequiously fell.
 With quite as much decorum
 As a speaker in a forum
 He started in his history to tell.

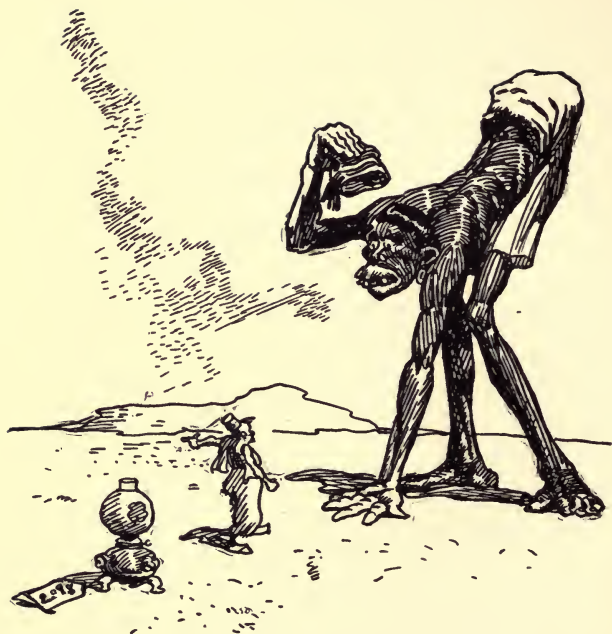
“Fair maid,” he said, “I beg you,
do not hesitate or wince,
If you ’ll promise that you ’ll wed me,
I ’ll at once become a prince ;
For a fairy old and vicious
An enchantment round me spun !”
Then he looked up, unsuspecting,
And he saw what he had won,
And in terms of sad reproach he
Made some comments, *sotto voce*.*

* (Which the publishers have bidden me to shun !)

Matilda Maud Mackenzie
said, as if she meant to scold :
“ I *never* ! Why, you forward thing !
Now ain't you awful bold ! ”
Just a glance he paused to give her,
And his head was seen to clutch,
Then he darted to the river,
And he dived to beat the Dutch !
While the wrathful maiden panted :
“ I don't think he was enchanted ! ”
(And he really did n't look it overmuch !)



The Moral : In one's language one conserva-
tive should be :
Speech is silver, and it never should be free !



How the Peaceful Aladdin Gave Way to His Madness



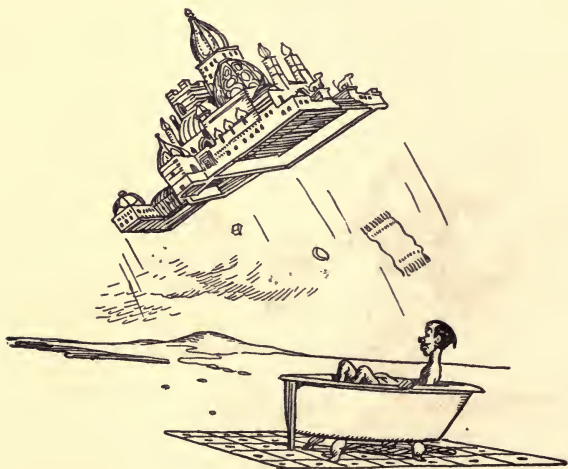
His name was Aladdin.
The clothes he was clad in
 Proclaimed him an Arab at sight,
And he had for a chum
An uncommonly rum
 Old afreet, six cubits in height.
This person infernal,
Who seemed so fraternal,
 At bottom was frankly a scamp :
His future to sadden,
He gave to Aladdin
 A wonderful magical lamp.

A marvel he dubbed it.
He said if one rubbed it
 One's wishes were done on the spot.
Now what would you do
Were it offered to you?
 Refuse it undoubtedly (not) !
It's thus comprehensive
With pleasure extensive
 Aladdin accepted the gift,
And, by it befriended,
Erected a splendid
 Château, with a bath and a lift !

Not dreaming of malice,
One year in his palace
 He led a luxurious life,
Till his genius dread
Put it into his head
 That he needed a beautiful wife.
Responding to friction,
The lamp this affliction
 At once for Aladdin secured ;
The latter, delighted,
Imagined he sighted
 A future of quiet assured.

When gladly he chose her,
He did n't suppose her
 A philatelist, always agape
For novelties, yet
She had all of the set
 Of triangular stamps of the Cape.
Some people malicious
Proclaimed her Mauritius
 One-penny vermilion a sell.
But that was all rot. It
Was true she had got it,
 And the tuppenny blue one as well!

Since thus she collected,
As might be expected,
She did n't for *bric-à-brac* care,
So she traded the lamp
For an Ecuador stamp
That somebody told her was rare !
This act served to madden
The mind of Aladdin,
But, 'spite of his impotent wrath,
His manor-house vanished,
To nothingness banished,



And while he was taking a bath !

The average Arab
Is hard as a scarab

When some one has wounded his pride,
So he jumped up and down,
With a cynical frown,

On the *face* of his beautiful bride!
He had picked up a cargo
Of curious *argot*

While living in Paris the gay ;
In the slang of that city
He cried without pity :

" Comme ça tu me fich'ras la paix ! "



The Moral : When stamps you 're adept on
Of risks you are reckless, and yet
Beware ! If your face is once stepped on,
That 's the last stamp you 're likely to get !

How a Fisherman Corked up His Foe in a Jar



A fisherman lived on the shore,
(It's a habit that fishers affect,)
And his life was a hideous bore :
He had nothing to do but collect
Continual harvests of seaweed and shells,



Which he stuck upon photograph frames,
To sell to the guests in the summer hotels
With the quite inappropriate names !

He would wander along by the edge
Of the sea, and I know for a fact
From the pools with a portable dredge
He would curious creatures extract :
And, during the season, he always took lots
Of tourists out fishing for bass,
And showed them politely impossible spots,
In the culpable way of his class.

It happened one day, as afar
He roved on the glistening strand,
That he chanced on a curious jar,
Which lay on a hummock of sand.



It was closed at the mouth with a cork and a
seal,
And over the top there was tied
A cloth, and the fisherman could n't but feel
That he ought to see what was inside.



*This shows us the fisher beginning to blow
Of preserving himself while he pickled his foe.*



But what were his fear and surprise
When the stopper he held in his hand !
For a genie of singular size
Appeared in a trice on the sand,
Who said in the roughest and rudest of tones :
" A monster you 've foolishly freed !
I shall simply make way with you, body and
bones,
And that with phenomenal speed ! "

The fisherman looked in his face,
And answered him boldly : " My friend,
How you ever were packed in that space
Is something I don't comprehend.
Pray do me the favor to show me how you
Can do it, as large as you are."
The genie retorted : " That 's just what I 'll
do ! "
And promptly reëntered the jar.

The fisherman corked him up tight :
The genie protested and raved,
But for all he accomplished, he might
As well all his shouting have saved.
And, whenever a generous bonus is paid,
The fisherman willingly tells
The singular tale of this trick that he played,
To the guests in the summer hotels.

The Moral: When fortune you strike,
And you 've slipped through a dangerous
crack,
Get as forward as ever you like,
But never, oh, *never* get back !

Envoi



Now don't go and say you 'd a dim
Idea of these stories before,
For I've frankly confessed them from Grimm,
The monarch of magical lore :

And if, by repeating, I took
Your time, I will candidly vow
This moral (the last in the book)
Has never been published till now !

The Moral: The skeleton's Grimm,
But I have supplied the apparel,
So it 's fifty per cent. of it Him,
And it 's fifty per cent. of it Carryl.
But still (from the personal severing,
For it is n't my nature to grump,)
I acknowledge a measure of Levering
Levering-ed the whole of the lump !



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